

298698

Latimer, Becky

From: PSCSC Communications
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Duke, Daphne; Latimer, Becky
Subject: FW: [External] Docket No. 2020-229-E 3/23 Hearing Registration

Please add Mr. Royer's comments to the Docket.

From: Benjamin Royer
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 6:39 PM
To: PSCSC Communications <communications@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Docket No. 2020-229-E 3/23 Hearing Registration

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written comment. As my allotted time is at 1:47 AM, I prefer to submit my statement here.

My name is Benjamin Royer, and my wife and I are homeowners in Irmo, SC. We installed a rooftop solar system in 2017, as we prefer to have options in our energy market and want to contribute to sustainable, market-driven solutions to our energy generation. Our solar system has allowed us that opportunity, as we have been able to generate 90%+ of our electricity ourselves using our own roof surface. However, the energy we produced has not just been used in our own home, but thanks to access to the traditional utility network, our energy production has supplied electricity to our neighbors homes helping to allieve strain on utility infrastructure during peak hours in the summer time.

The 2014 law mandating net metering made our decision to install and use solar panels possible, and that law makes it possible for our panels to share electricity with our neighbors. That, however, is now under attack by traditional utility companies (Dominion Energy) that seek to disenfranchise solar users like myself and force competitors like the solar industry out of the energy generation market.

South Carolinians are saddled with some of the highest energy bills in the country, and it is because of the greed and protectionism of traditional utilities like Dominion and SCANA before them that seek to increase their profits by monopolizing a market. Solar is a shift away from the traditional power structure that these utilities have enjoyed for decades, and the tariff proposed by Dominion is purely an attempt to drive out competition from their market.

Tariff fees, combined with adjusted credits for energy sold back to Dominion, would decrease the value of residential net metering by 55%, making a typical residential solar system no longer economic in Dominion's service territory.

Homeowners like myself signed a social contract with the state of South Carolina and SCANA/Dominion when we invested thousands of dollars in our energy independence. Support of Dominion's tariff is a betrayal of that contract. I am deeply disappointed that Dominion continues to advocate for policies that hurt home solar and takes away decision-making for people to choose their own power. I hope that the Public Service Commission weighs the benefits of customer choice and home solar in their decision on Dominion's anti-solar proposal.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comment.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Royer

Columbia, SC 29212

On Tue, Mar 23, 2021, 8:34 AM PSCSC Communications <communications@psc.sc.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Royer,

The Public Service Commission has received your pre-registration to testify in Docket No. 2020-229-E. We will call you at Tuesday, March 23, 2021 around 1:47 a.m. (March 24th) for you to deliver your remarks. If this is too late, please let me know. Alternatively, written comments can be submitted to contact@psc.sc.gov.

Please be aware that the Commission may call you at any time after the beginning of the hearing. The Commission will only attempt to reach you three (3) times.

Thank you,

PSC Communications

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 10:44 PM

To: PSCSC Communications <communications@psc.sc.gov>

Subject: [External] Docket No. 2020-229-E 3/23 Hearing Registration

Dear South Carolina PSC,

I would like to register to speak at the virtual public night hearing in Docket No. 2020-229-E regarding Dominion Energy South Carolina's solar choice metering tariff on Tuesday, March 23rd.

Phone #:

Please, do not let Dominion punish my family for wanting freedom in deciding where my electricity comes from.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Royer

Columbia, SC